

honor of Strom Thurmond, our friend and former colleague, who passed away today.

From the moment Strom Thurmond set foot in this Chamber in 1954, he has been setting records. He was the only person ever elected to the U.S. Senate on a write-in vote. He set the record for the longest speech on the Senate floor, clocked at an astounding 24 hours and 18 minutes. He was the longest serving Senator in the history of the Senate. He was also the oldest serving Senator. Many of my colleagues will recall the momentous occasion in September of 1998 when he cast his 15,000th vote in the Senate. With these and so many other accomplishments over the years, he has appropriately been referred to as "an institution within an institution."

In 1902, the year Strom Thurmond was born, life expectancy was 51 years—and today it is 77 years. Strom continued to prove that, by any measure, he was anything but average.

He saw so much in his life. To provide some context, let me point out that during his lifetime, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Alaska and Hawaii gained Statehood, and 11 amendments were added to the Constitution. The technological advancements he witnessed, from the automobile to the airplane to the Internet, literally spanned a century of progress. Conveniences we have come to take for granted today were not always part of Strom Thurmond's world. Perhaps this explains why, during Judiciary Committee hearings, he was often heard asking witnesses who were too far away from the microphone to "please speak into the machine."

The story of his remarkable political career truly could fill several volumes. It began with a win in 1928 for the Edgefield County Superintendent of Schools. Eighteen years later, he was Governor of South Carolina. Strom was even a Presidential candidate in 1948, running on the "Dixiecrat" ticket against Democrat Harry Truman.

I must admit, he came a long way in his political career, given that he originally came to the Senate as a Democrat. I was happy to say that wisdom came within a few short years when Strom saw the light and joined the Republican Party.

When I first arrived in the Senate in January of 1977, he was my mentor. As my senior on the Judiciary Committee, it was Strom Thurmond who helped me find my way and learn how the committee functioned. He was not only a respected colleague, but a personal friend.

During his tenure as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Strom Thurmond left an indelible mark on the committee and the laws that came through it. He became known and respected for many fine qualities and positions—his devotion to the Constitution, his toughness on crime, his sense of fairness.

He was famous for his incredible grip. Many of us in this Chamber had the ex-

perience of Strom Thurmond holding our arm tightly as he explains a viewpoint and asked for our support. I might add that this proved to be a very effective approach.

Strom was also known to have a kind word or greeting for everyone who came his way, and for being extremely good to his staff. Despite his power and influence, he never forgot the importance of small acts of kindness. For example, whenever he ate in the Senate dining room, he grabbed two fistfuls of candy. When he returned to the floor of the Senate, he handed the candy out to the Senate pages. Unfortunately, it was usually melted into a keleidoscope of sugar by then. I have a feeling that the pages preferred it when Strom took them out for ice cream.

Strom Thurmond was truly a legend—someone to whom the people of South Carolina owe an enormous debt of gratitude for all his years of service.

Clearly, the people of South Carolina recognize the sacrifices he made and are grateful for all he did for them. In fact, you cannot mention the name Strom Thurmond in South Carolina without the audience bursting into spontaneous applause. He truly was an American political icon.

Abraham Lincoln once said that "The better part of one's life consists of friendships." With a friend like Strom Thurmond, this sentiment could not be more true. I am a great admirer of Strom Thurmond, and I am proud to have called him my friend.

One final note about Strom Thurmond. He was a great patriot. A decorated veteran of World War II who fought at Normandy on D-day, Strom Thurmond loved this country. Let me close by saying that this country loved him, too.

A SALUTE TO PAUL GALIS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the great State of West Virginia has produced numerous individuals who have dedicated their lives to the service of the Nation. These sons and daughters of West Virginia have contributed to the betterment of their communities, their State and their country. One such public servant is Paul L. Galis, who for 35 years has served admirably in the Federal Aviation Administration, and has contributed to the development of an aviation system unsurpassed in the world.

Mr. Galis retires in July as the Deputy Associate Administrator for Airports in FAA. In this position as well as his previous position of Director of the Office of Airport Planning and Program, Mr. Galis has overseen the planning and development of over 3,000 airports in the national plan for airports. This has been no small task and Mr. Galis has served with distinction.

All of us in the State of West Virginia salute Mr. Galis for his career and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Our country is better for the work he has done and the example of

public service he has provided. His able leadership and steady hand will be missed.

OREGON'S TANF WAIVER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on June 12, 2003, I published a notice in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of my intent to object to moving to H.R. 2350, a bill to extend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or "TANF," our Nation's welfare program. My good friend from Oregon, Senator SMITH, joined in this effort because the legislation does not contain a provision critical to Oregon's welfare program: a waiver of certain provisions that gives Oregon flexibility to operate a successful welfare program. Because of its waiver, which expires on June 30, 2003, Oregon has reduced its welfare rolls nearly 60 percent since 1994. It is clear that the waiver has allowed Oregon to meet local needs and craft what has been heralded as one of the best welfare programs in the country.

Since Senator SMITH and I announced our public holds, the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, and the ranking member, Senator BAUCUS, have worked closely with us to find a way so that Oregon can continue to operate under its waiver until TANF is fully reauthorized. They have helped obtain a letter from Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson to Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski, myself and Senator SMITH assuring us that Oregon can continue to operate without penalty under its waiver. I believe this letter provides Oregon the assurances necessary to continue to operate as if the waiver were still in place, and ask unanimous consent to insert the letter in the RECORD.

Mr. SMITH. I join Senator WYDEN in expressing deep pride in Oregon's TANF program and in thanking the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee, on which I serve, for their cooperation. I share his assessment that this letter will enable Oregon to maintain its TANF program without penalty until the program is reauthorized.

I also express my appreciation to Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS for their efforts on TANF reauthorization. We have been working together for months to ensure that all TANF proposals, including those elements which have made Oregon's TANF program so successful, are carefully considered as we move toward TANF reauthorization.

Oregon's TANF program, often called the Oregon Option, works because it recognizes local barriers to work and works with individuals to assess their needs and get them onto a path toward independence. For example, Oregon allows individuals with severe substance abuse problems to seek treatment. This helps people address the root of their problems—not just the symptoms. The